representations from the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) from time to time highlighting certain issues of concern to the newspapers industry and the demands raised by the INS have been examined in the Ministry on merti.

Pension scheme for Journalists

1951. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement a pension scheme for the working Journalists and Media Persons;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the implementation of pension scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 already provides for pension to journalists in newspaper establishments covered under the Act.

Upgradation of AIR Centres In Uttaranchal

†1952. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade some All India Radio Centres in Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to upgrade MW/FM coverage in Uttaranchal, the following projects of AIR have been proposed during 10th Plan:—

(i) Dharchula (1KWMW), (ii) Dehradun (10 KW FM), (iii) Haldwani/ Kaladungi (10 KW FM), (iv) Bhatwari (5 KW FM), (v) Bhageshwar (5 KW

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

FM), (vi) Champwat (1 KW FM), (vii) Chakrata (1 KW FM), (viii) Garison (1 KW FM), (ix) Rudraprayag (1 KW FM) and (x) New Tehri (1 KW FM).

In addition, uplinking facilities at AIR Stations Dehradun and Almora have also been proposed in the State during the 10th Plan.

Private TV channels

†1953. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tendency of private television channels to earn more profits is seriously threatening our art and cultural heritage; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to keep a check on this tendency which is seriously threatening the Culture of our Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Complaints/suggestions are received from time to time expressing concerns about programmes telecast on TV Channels.

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the Programmes and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

Government has constituted two Inter-Ministerial Committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995, to look into violations of the Programme and Advertising Code. On the recommendations of these Committees, appropriate action is taken against TV Channels from time to time for violation of the provisions of the Codes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.